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Security Council

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Letter dated 29 January 2007 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Secretary-General's letter dated 8 December 2006 (S/2007/46) concerning the processing of letters of credit pertaining to the oil-for-food programme has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

They took note with concern and disappointment of his observations, in particular that slow progress has been made in implementing the remaining contracts and the associated letters of credit under the oil-for-food programme.

They also noted that, in conformity with Security Council resolution 1483 (2003), under which the Council mandated the closure of the programme, the Secretary-General has informed the Government of Iraq of the need to make every effort to execute all outstanding contracts and letters within the recommended time.

The members of the Security Council, referring to the letter of the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General dated 11 August 2006 (S/2006/646), want to reaffirm the importance of promptly finding a final solution to the remaining issues, and in particular the question of processing of the authentication documents for the arrival of goods in Iraq, so that payments can be made to the concerned companies and so that the programme can close, as currently scheduled, during the course of 2007.

To that end, the members of the Security Council have addressed a letter to the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations urging the Government of Iraq to do its utmost, in liaison with the Secretariat of the United Nations, to expedite the processing of the remaining letters in order to achieve the timely termination of the programme.

In this regard, the members of the Security Council have stressed the high importance that, as requested in the Secretary-General's letter to the President of the Security Council dated 10 July 2006 (S/2006/510), the Controller of the United Nations consult as soon as possible with the relevant Iraqi authorities with a view to solving the pending issues. The members of the Council look forward to the successful outcome of these consultations.

The members of the Security Council request that they be kept informed of the progress made.

(*Signed*) Vitaly I. **Churkin**
President of the Security Council

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